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dustries have been crushed by prohibitive tariffs, and that, as stated in the Report of the Select Committee, "a large proportion of the revenue is annually drained away, without any return being made for it," while the people of India "have no voice whatever in imposing the taxes which they are called upon to pay"—these alone are sufficient evidence to justify severe censure. The Swami, however, expresses gratitude to England for the two benefits which, he acknowledges, she has conferred upon India: the reawakening of a national pride, and the chance to learn of the science, business enterprise, and culture of the West. As for religion, the Swami holds that the West has yet much to learn from India.

The book is decidedly interesting. Owing to the necessary brevity and popular nature of the treatment, many historical portions are too scantily filled in, and many statements which should be strengthened with a greater backing of facts are left with but little more weight than expressions of opinion. Still, for the student, the book has two admirable qualities: breadth in scope, and suggestiveness in material.

J. B. A.

Pictures from the Balkans. By John Forster Fraser. xii and 298 pp.

Map, Illustrations, and Index. Cassell & Company, London, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

Mr. Fraser is the British journalist who wrote "Canada As It Is," which was issued by the same publishers over a year ago (BULLETIN, 1905, p. 700). He has brought the same qualities of shrewd observation and lively description to the drawing of these pen-pictures from the Balkans—a region which, in every sense, is much more complicated than his earlier topic. The sketches are drawn from Servia, Bulgaria, and those western parts of Turkey commonly called Macedonia and Albania.

He says that Macedonia is little more than a name given to a tract of Turkish territory where, besides the Turks, lives a congeries of races, chiefly Bulgarian and Greek; and it is the hatred between the Bulgarian and Greek Christians that is responsible for a large part of the outrages to which so much attention has been called. All curse the Turk and love Macedonia, but it is Greek Macedonia or Bulgarian Macedonia. This bitter animosity between the Greek and Bulgarian Christians is responsible for the larger part of the ills of their country:

The misrule of the Turk is bad enough, but to hand over Macedonia to the Christians of Macedonia to work out their own salvation would be to plunge the country into direst bloodshed.

The book makes no special appeal to the geographer, but it offers to the general reader many glimpses of the Balkans and their people that are most acceptable in these days, when good descriptions of that region are still few in number.

Ten Thousand Miles in a Yacht round the West Indies and up the Amazon. By Richard Arthur. 253 pp., and many Illustrations. E. P.

Dutton & Company, New York, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

This is a vivacious account of the yacht voyage made in the winter of 1904-5 by Mr. E. C. Benedict and his party of guests to Bermuda, the West Indies, and up the Amazon as far as Manaos, about 1,000 miles inland. It was Mr. Benedict's original intention to extend the journey to Iquitos, 2,200 miles from the ocean—a point that is reached by large steamers from Europe, but it was decided that practically every phenomenon of the river had been revealed in the first thousand miles, and that there was little to gain in experience or pleasure by going any farther. The journey was about 10,000 miles in length, and occupied 76 days.

Nothing geographically new could be expected from a narrative of this kind, but it is not often that the enjoyment, variety, and interest of a pleasure journey are more

charmingly described. Every facility was given to the distinguished party at the Amazon and island towns they visited to see everything worth seeing, and they were after information as well as pleasure. The book has been handsomely produced, and contains numerous fine photographs. The preface is written by Mr. William M. Ivins, the well-known lawyer, who, through residence, travel, and study, knows many things Brazilian. He expresses regret that the English books of value on Brazil were not all written by men who knew thoroughly the tongue, history, literature, or people of that country; so that we are not yet in real touch with their lives, national aspirations, customs, or civilization.

Alaska and the Klondike. By J. S. McLain. xiv and 330 pp., numerous Illustrations, Map, and Index. McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. (Price, \$2.00.)

The author is a newspaper editor who was permitted to accompany the senatorial Sub-Committee that visited Alaska in the summer of 1903 for the purpose of collecting information that would be useful to Congress in its legislation for that district. Mr. McLain, therefore, enjoyed extremely favourable opportunities for studying the resources and prospects of the country during the ten weeks' trip through the interior, along the whole course of the Yukon, and to many places among the islands and on the coast that are not easily reached by the regular means of travel.

His book has two qualities that make it conspicuous among writings on Alaska. It has the solidity essential to the presentation of a large amount of reliable, late, and well-digested information; and it contains sufficient narrative, anecdote and description to make it interesting to a large circle of readers. It first tells the story of the trip along the coast and through the heart of Alaska. It then discusses the very important interests and questions relating to the country, such as the seal islands and the fisheries, transportation as the key to the locked-up wealth of Alaska, the political conditions, agricultural possibilities, the reindeer industry, the Indians, and the great goldfields of the Seward Peninsula and the Fairbanks district.

The predominant note is that Alaska is a wonderfully rich country. The author is even impressed with the probability that in the interior, where food supplies from the States must always be expensive, it will be practicable and profitable to produce meat, dairy, poultry, and garden products in sufficient quantity and at such prices as to solve the problem of development of large areas of gold-bearing gravel. This is very important, for the prospects are that before many years there will be hundreds of toilers in the Territory where there are tens to-day. The Sub-Committee was told in Nome that in this district about 20,000 gold claims had been staked out and recorded, and only about 500 of them were being worked to any extent. This represents a state of things general throughout Alaska, though it is not quite so accentuated in other sections as in the Seward Peninsula.

It is impossible to give an idea of the stores of information the book contains, but a few facts may be mentioned about the new Fairbanks district. The miners, not satisfied with the price of \$16 an ounce for their gold, had it assayed, and found it to be worth \$17.50, which shows that it is a finer quality than that of the Klondike and nearly as fine as the gold of Nome. It is more inaccessible, however, than at either of those places. In the Klondike and Nome regions the gold is often found exposed or very slightly covered along the beds of the creeks, but in the Fairbanks district there seems to be no gold in the creek bottoms; it lies up on the ledges and on the hillsides in a stratum of gravel two or three feet thick, and is located only after sinking shafts 10 to 20 feet from the surface.